
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: ROBERT FRANCIOSI
SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW PERFORMANCE THRESHOLDS FOR AZ LEARNS
DATE: 8/23/2005
(REF #RE05013-E)

The tables below provide the new, proposed performance thresholds for the AZ LEARNS achievement profiles. Shown in the tables are the proposed and current performance thresholds, the proposed z-score for percent exceeding, and preliminary estimates of the number of schools that would fall into each performance category if all proposed changes are approved.

Elementary/Middle Schools. The scale for elementary schools ranges from a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 27 points. Under the proposed scale, a school that earns less than 13 points would receive a profile of underperforming.

The performance level of 13 is, after adjusting for the transitional MAP, at the upper end of the range recommended by the stakeholders committee. We are not recommending a lower threshold within the range due to the input of the ADE's School Improvement section. They were concerned that if lower number were chosen, and consequently a lower number of schools designated as underperforming, schools needing help would not be eligible. Dale Parcell of School Improvement will be at the meeting to explain further.

Elementary/Middle Schools				
<i>Performance Thresholds</i>				
<i>Profile</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>z-score</i>	<i>Number of Schools</i>
Underperforming	<13	<12	NA	91
Performing	13-15.9	12-13.7	NA	450
Performing Plus	16 or more	NA	< 0.45	377
Highly Performing	16-18.9	13.8-16.1	0.45 or more	201
Excelling	19 or more	16.2 or more	1.00 or more	167

High Schools. The scale for high schools ranges from a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 21 points. Under the proposed scale, a school that earns less than 9.6 points would receive a profile of

underperforming. We estimate that this will produce roughly the same percentage of underperforming high schools as elementary and middle schools.

High Schools				
<i>Performance Thresholds</i>				
<i>Profile</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>z-score</i>	<i>Number of Schools</i>
Underperforming	<9.6	<9.6	NA	32
Performing	9.6-14.9	9.6-14.9	NA	129
Performing Plus	15 or more	NA	< 0.45	54
Highly Performing	15-16.9	15-16.1	0.45 or more	50
Excelling	17 or more	16.2 or more	1.00 or more	35

The table below compares the number and percentage of schools receiving the various profiles over the past three years. It should be noted that the numbers for this are preliminary. They do not include K-2 or alternative schools (an additional 150), nor do they incorporate final AYP determinations, graduation rates, and drop out rates. Finally, of course, they are pre-appeals.

Summary of Profiles						
<i>Profile</i>	<i>2003</i>		<i>2004</i>		<i>Preliminary 2005</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Failing	NA	NA	11	<1	NA	NA
Underperforming	136	12	112	7	123	8
Performing	663	60	1180	71	579	37
Performing Plus	NA	NA	NA	NA	431	27
Highly Performing	167	15	207	12	251	16
Excelling	132	12	152	9	202	13
Total	1098	100	1670	100	1586	100